

California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

Langley Porter, M.D.
Martin Fischer, M.D.

John Spencer, M.D.
Harry M. Sherman, M.D.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary State Society,	Butler Building,
State Journal,	San Francisco.
Official Register,	

Telephone Douglas 2537

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

VOL. VII MAY, 1909.

No. 5

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The San Jose meeting of the State Society, now a thing of the past, was a distinct success. The full minutes of the proceedings of the **SAN JOSE** House of Delegates will be found in **MEETING.** this issue, together with the reports of officers. It will be seen from these that the Society was never in better condition than at the present time. In spite of many setbacks, we have steadily increased in numbers and we have also steadily reduced our obligations. There were 316 registered in attendance and doubtless, as is always the case, a number more who forgot to register. The tone of the program was excellent and some of the sessions worthy of the highest commendation. The President, Dr. Beckett, enforced the rule limiting authors and speakers to ten and five minutes respectively, and once more it was demonstrated to be a very wise rule. The newly elected President, Dr. Jas. H. Parkinson, of Sacramento, is known to most of our members and will undoubtedly guide the Society with a sure and a wise head during the coming year. The next meeting will be held at Sacramento, the third week in April, 1910. It is unfortunate that, probably through oversight in the confusion of electing a large number of committee-men, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Dr. F. C. E. Mattison, who has done such masterly work in organizing and making so very important this committee, was not reelected. No words of commendation can too highly praise the work that Dr. Mattison has done for the Society and for the Public Health of the people during the last two years, during which he has given liberally of his

time and his energy for the furthering of the work of this committee. It is a sorrow to see him discontinue it and we can only hope that the new committee may continue the work as energetically and as satisfactorily as the former committee did under the management of Dr. Mattison.

In the last legislature were introduced a number of bills affecting the status of those who desire to treat the sick. The Naturopaths **WHY THESE ASSAULTS?** wanted a law creating a board of examiners in Naturopathy; the chiropractics wanted a similar board for their peculiar cult, whatever it may be; there were two bills creating entirely new and original laws to regulate the practice of medicine and of osteopathy and two more which, at the beginning of things, merely amended the present law and created reciprocity. One of these, A. B. 1331, by Silver, was later amended to include all the bad features of all the others, and some in addition! The question is often asked, "Why are there so many attacks upon the medical law?" One reason is this: Any person may engage a lawyer as his professional adviser; there are many lawyers in the legislature; if the client of such an one desires a bill introduced, his lawyer-legislator naturally takes a great interest in that bill. This is not called "graft" by the legal profession; it is merely the system by means of which the great industries have had, for many years, very friendly congresses to make laws for them. It is therefore clear how such bills may be introduced and why the introducers may fight hard for their passage. But the number of such attorneys is small. Another reason, a vastly more important one, is the prevailing ignorance of the whole subject. Some people come along and want a board of examiners in "comforthealing"; they state at once that they do *not* wish to practice medicine; not at all; *only* comforthealing, which is mysteriously different from anything else and makes sick people well without doing anything to them. That sort of argument impresses a good many intelligent legislators who say "Why do you oppose these men? They do not ask to practice *medicine* and their bill is so drawn that they can *not* practice anything but 'comforthealing'; can not prescribe or operate or call themselves doctors." All of this is beautifully fine and simple—on the surface of it. But the legislator does not know the facts; he does not know that every one of these applicants to do these certain and sundry peculiar things is really and actually going to practice medicine as soon as he gets his license to practice something else.

A graphic illustration of this was furnished within ten days after the last meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners. The legislature **CASE IN POINT.** amended the present law and compelled the board to endorse certificates from the "Board of Naturopathic Examiners" which had been issued prior to the passage of the amendment. Some fifty were so indorsed on April 7th. Within a few days an agent for one of